

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 8, lines 12-19, with the following replacement paragraph:

~~Below~~ Below the document table 12, there is provided an optical system 13 to irradiate a document G ~~placed~~ placed on the document table 12 and project the reflecting light from the document G to the color CCD sensor 11. The optical system 13 comprises a reflector 14, a lamp 17 of which light is condensed to a sub-reflector 16 and illuminates the document G, first through third mirrors 18, 20 and 21, a filter 22, and a lens 23.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 10, lines 10-21, with the following replacement paragraph:

The shading correction is executed based on the white reference data and the black reference data. When the shading correction plate 32 (the white reference) is read, the quantity of light is attenuated at pixels at both ends of the main scanning direction, as shown by the illuminance plot (a) in Figure 1. So, the shading correction is executed for every RGB signals according to a ratio between a difference of read image data of RGB signals that are input signals from the document G and the white reference data and a difference between the white reference data and the black reference data that is a dark environment read before lighting the lamp 17.